Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased too state:

(a) the companies which exported rice during 1991-92,

(b) the quantity of rice exported by each of the companies during the above period; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) . Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Alleged Illegal Dealings of Liquor in Canteens

4998. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: SHRI BARE LAL JATAV

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some incidents of alleged illegal dealings of liquor in various armed forces canteens have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons found purchasing liquor more than the prescribed quantitty and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent the liquor supplied to canteens being sold in the open market on a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) . One L/Nk drew 8 bottles of RUM by forging signatures of an officer from HQrs Pune Sub-Area Canteen and sold them in league with two Sales Assistants of the Canteen. After investigation the 3 persons found guilty were duly punished under the Service Rules applicable to them.

(c) and (d) : There is no report regarding puurchase of liquor, from the Unit Run Canteens, more than the prescribed quantity. The distribution of liquor to Armed Forces Personnnel is regulated and monitored by the Officer Commanding of each Unit as per guidelines on the subject issued by the Army HQrs, from time to time. The existing guidelines provide adequate safeguards against unauthorised sale of liquor from any URC.

[English]

New Bye-Pass Connection for Cochin Port

4999. PROF. K.V THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRAANSPORT be pleased to state ;

(a) the progress made in connecting Cochin Port with the Cochin Bye-Pass via the new Thevera bridge; and

(b) the time by which the work on this road is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Construction of NH 47-A Link Road connecting Cochin Port with Cochin bypass is being done in two phases. In Phase I, length 3.75 kms, construction of Venduruthy bridge has been completed and the balance workls are in various stages of progress. It is likely to be completed by December, 1992. In phase II, length 2.17 kms, land acquisition has already been completed. An estimate amounting to Rs. 43.09 crores for the project has been sanctioned in January, 1992, and Ten-